

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**

DATE: 12/20/2021
DOCKET#: 2021-1067

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Michael Bergeron
Office: Council Member, Division C, City of Westlake
Parish: CALCASIEU
Election Date: 10/12/2019
Level of Office: Any

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: 10-P
Original Due Date: 10/2/2019
Date Filed: 10/9/2019
Activity Receipts: \$-0
Expenditures: \$-0
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$13.27

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$280
Days Late: 7
Late Fee Order Received: 10/17/2021
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 11/6/2020
Waiver Request Received: 3/2/2021
Additional Information Requested:
- Medical
XX - Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: Carla Sigler and Michael Bergeron request an untimely waiver and states the following: Mr. Bergeron did not originally receive the fine assessment letter until right after the two hurricanes hit. Once he did, the deadline for filing to dispute or appeal this assessment had already run. At that time, Mr. Bergeron was spending the first three (3) weeks running a distribution site at a local church in Westlake, Louisiana helping to give away supplies and over 75,000 meals to needy people, organizing and doing all of this with his wife, Brittney. Between Hurricane Laura on August 26, 2020 and Hurricane Delta on October 5, 2020, both of which devastated our area and caused significant damages to both Mr. Bergeron and him (and both Mr. Bergeron and him having COVID-19), we were confused on what was sent by whom.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No



BRYANT & SIGLER

Attorneys at Law

Justice You Can Trust

March 2, 2021

Ms. Melissa Horn

Program Compliance Officer
State of Louisiana
Department of State Civil Service
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Sent via certified mail and email to melissa.horn@la.gov

Re: Late fee assessment for the October 12, 2019
Election for Mr. Michael Bergeron

Dear Ms. Horn:

On behalf of Mr. Bergeron and me, let me start by apologizing for the delay in this letter. There was a miscommunication between us where I thought the response letter you and I previously discussed via my phone call of inquiry was already sent by Mr. Bergeron. Between Hurricane Laura on August 26, 2020 and Hurricane Delta on October 5, 2020, both of which devastated our area and caused significant damages to both Mr. Bergeron and me (and both Mr. Bergeron and me having COVID-19), we were confused on what was sent by whom. We both sincerely apologize for the delay.

By way of this letter, Mr. Bergeron respectfully requests a waiver of the late fee assessment for his October 12, 2019 election.

Mr. Bergeron did not originally receive the fine assessment letter until right after the two hurricanes hit. Once he did, the deadline for filing to dispute or appeal this assessment had already run. At that time, Mr. Bergeron was spending the first three (3) weeks running a distribution site at a local church in Westlake, Louisiana helping to give away supplies and over 75,000 meals to needy people, organizing and doing all of this with his wife, Brittney.

Mr. Bergeron has multiple mitigating factors to support his waiver request. To begin with, Mr. Bergeron's election to replace a deceased Westlake City Council member was a special election which occurred on October 12, 2019. One mitigating factor was Mr. Bergeron's misunderstanding as a lay person and first-time candidate that a November of 2019 report was required of him, since his election was finished on October 12, 2019 when he won the Westlake City Council seat without any run-off.



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Mr. Bergeron, who works as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at Cameron Parish Emergency Medical Services, does not earn sufficient income to have been able to hire an Accounting or Campaign Finance Manager for this election, which was his first run for political office. Mr. Bergeron also donates his Westlake City Council member check to charity every month.

Mr. Bergeron handled all of the campaign finance reports himself, and he was confused at the requirements. He sincerely attempted to comply with all of the campaign finance rules.

Mr. Bergeron's wife, Brittney, is a stay-at-home mother who had just given birth to their second child Riverlyn, right before his election. In addition, they had just spent their savings so that Mr. Bergeron could adopt Brittney's daughter, Adalyn. His personal savings were depleted in that expensive court proceeding, and are still minimal due to the current state of our devastated area.

Mr. Bergeron is currently still repairing his home from the damage caused by two hurricanes, and his hurricane deductibles from his insurance company are substantial. Many repair costs to make his home habitable again and to restore it are coming out of his own pocket.

Mr. Bergeron's ability to review his notes and copies of his campaign finance reports to respond to the late fee letter is also greatly hindered by the loss of his filing records in the hurricanes. Mr. Bergeron obtained the copies of his filings that are attached to this letter from the Campaign Finance website.

As the attached reports from Mr. Bergeron's campaign reveal (see **Exhibit A in globo**), all financial information in the reports is the same, so there were no additional expenses or income to report in the delayed reports, which were all for the same November 2019 election.

Mr. Bergeron sincerely apologizes for the delay occasioned in this case, and he respectfully seeks a waiver of his late fee assessment.

If anything further is needed from Mr. Bergeron, please do not hesitate to contact either of us. We both appreciate your professional courtesies and assistance in this matter.



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Sincerely,

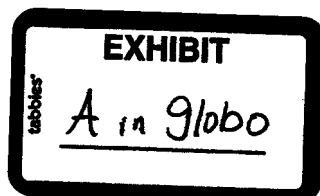
Carla S. Sigler

Michael Bergeron

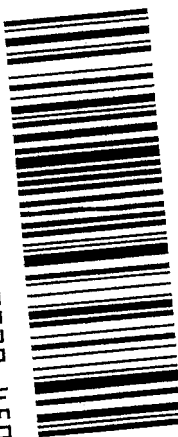
CANDIDATE'S REPORT (to be filed by a candidate or his principal campaign committee)		
1. Qualifying Name and Address of Candidate Michael Bergeron 611 Sulphur Ave Westlake, LA 70669	2. Office Sought (Include title of office, as well as parish, city, town and/or election district.) City Council Westlake, LA	OFFICE USE ONLY 10/19 10 P n/h
3. Date of Primary: Oct 12 th 2019 This report covers from Sept 3 rd through Sept 22 nd		
4. Type of Report: <input type="checkbox"/> 180th day prior to primary <input type="checkbox"/> 40th day after general <input type="checkbox"/> 90th day prior to primary <input type="checkbox"/> Annual (future election) <input type="checkbox"/> 30th day prior to primary <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental (past election) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10th day prior to primary <input type="checkbox"/> 10th day prior to general <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment to prior report		
5. FINAL REPORT if: <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Filed after the election AND all loans and debts paid AND no surplus funds remaining <input type="checkbox"/> Unopposed		
6. Name and Address of Financial Institution (You are required by law to use one or more banks, savings and loan associations, or money market mutual fund as the depository of all campaign funds.) Jeff Davis Bank 1511 Samson St Westlake, LA 70669	7. Full Name and Address of Treasurer Michael Bergeron 611 Sulphur Ave Westlake, LA 70669	
8. Name of Person Preparing Report: Michael Bergeron Daytime Telephone: 337-499-6560		
10. WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the information contained in this report and the attached schedules is true and correct to the best of our knowledge, information and belief, and that no expenditures have been made nor contributions received that have not been reported herein, and that no information required to be reported by the Louisiana Campaign Finance Disclosure Act has been deliberately omitted. This 9 th day of October 2019 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <u>Michael Bergeron</u> Signature of Candidate/Chairperson (To be signed by Chairperson only if report by principal campaign committee) </div> <div> <u>337-499-6560</u> Daytime Telephone </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div> Signature of Treasurer </div> <div> Daytime Telephone </div> </div>		
8. FOR PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES ONLY a. Name and address of principal campaign committee, committee's chairperson, and subsidiary committees, if any (use additional sheets if necessary).		

Form 102 Rev. 11/14

Uploaded on 10/9/2019 1:00 PM



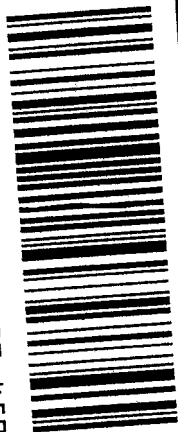
Michael Bergeron
611 Sulphur Ave
Westlake, LA 70669



7020 1290 0001 9239 4506

Melissa Horn
Program Compliance Officer
Dept of State Civil Service
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

CERTIFIED MAIL



7020 1290 0001 9239 4506

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